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June 17, 1904

born, 2; a fall, 1; wounds, 1; dropsy, 1; dysentery, 2; remittent fever, 1; malaria, 2; cancer, 1; pneumonia, 3; debility, 1; total from all causes, 27.

The above were copied from the official records.

CIRCULAR.

*Assistant Surgeon Claude C. Pierce, of this Service, notifies the different steamship companies interested, at Panama, that he has assumed the duties of the doctor of the port at Panama; and that the quarantine regulations of the United States will be observed at that port.*

PANAMA, PANAMA, May 26, 1904.

SIR: You are hereby advised for your information and action that by Decree No. 12, of May 24, 1904, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Panama abolished the position of doctor at the port and assigned those functions pertaining to the maritime quarantine to the United States Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.

I, having been designated by the Surgeon-General of the above-named Service as the officer charged with these duties, inform you that the quarantine regulations of the United States will be observed at this port, and that one of the requisites to entry of vessels will be the bills of health and supplemental bills of health, issued by American consuls, acting for Panama, and the certificates of inspection or disinfection that will be issued by officers of the United States Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service in those ports where such officers are stationed.

You will notify the masters of the vessels of your company and others concerned.

Respectfully,

CLAUDE C. PIERCE,

*Assistant Surgeon, U. S. Public Health and  
Marine-Hospital Service,  
Quarantine Officer at Panama.*

Copies sent to the agents of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, Pacific Steam Navigation Company, and Compania Sud America de Vapores.

*Reports from Bocos del Toro, fruit port.*

Acting Assistant Surgeon Osterhout reports as follows: Week ended May 26, 1904. Present officially estimated population not obtainable; number of deaths, 2. Prevailing disease, malarial. General sanitary condition of this port and the surrounding country during the week, good.

Bills of health were issued to the following-named vessels:

Date.	Vessel.	Destination.	Number of crew.	Number of passengers from this port.	Number of passengers in transit.	Pieces of baggage disinfected.
May 20	Harald .....	Mobile, Ala .....	20	0	0	0
22	Preston.....	New Orleans, La...	30	2	1	4
25	Belvernon.....	Mobile, Ala.....	20	0	0	0
26	Fort Gaines .....	do .....	22	2	0	7

Week ended June 2, 1904: No deaths.

Prevailing disease, malarial fever.

General sanitary condition of this port and the surrounding country during the week, good.

Bills of health were issued to the following-named vessels:

Date.	Vessel.	Destination.	Number of crew.	Number of passengers from this port.	Number of passengers in transit.	Pieces of baggage.
May 27	Mount Vernon .....	New Orleans, La...	21	1	0	2
29	Taunton.....	New Orleans, La., via Limon, C. R.	24	0	0	0
June 1	Baker .....	New Orleans, La...	42	0	0	0
2	Fort Morgan .....	Mobile, Ala .....	22	8	0	14

#### PERU.

##### *Reports from Callao—Plague in Lima and Antofagasta.*

Assistant Surgeon Lloyd reports, May 18 and 23, as follows:

During the week ended May 14, 1904, there were 10 new cases of plague in Lima with 4 deaths. Nine patients were discharged as recovered. This information is not official.

During the week ended May 21, 1904, there were 9 new cases of plague in Lima, with 6 deaths. Ten patients were discharged as recovered. No cases are reported in Callao. This information is not official. In Antofagasta the disease still exists, with a reported slight decrease in the number of cases. In Lima there seems to be some increase in the virulence, as some cases die in from eighteen to twenty-four hours. A cat was sent to the hygienic laboratory about twelve days ago with large buboes. Bacteriological examination by Doctor Biffi confirms the provisional diagnosis of plague.

##### *Plague situation in Peru—Recommendations relative to quarantine measures.*

The sanitary situation is as follows: Pacasmayo, Callao, Mollendo, and Pisco were among the first Peruvian ports to be infected with plague. San Pedro was infected a little later, but this place is 6 miles inland from Pacasmayo. Lima was probably infected months before it was officially announced, and although the authorities are actively engaged in combating the disease the bad sanitary conditions make this a very difficult task.

Officially plague exists in Lima and Chosica, but in no other places in Peru. I regard Callao as infected. I am willing to admit as a probability that there are no infected ports north of Callao at present, but as there is still some communication between these ports and Callao and Chilean ports, we may receive infection in some of them at any time. This, possibly, might be obviated by installing in Callao a proper sulphur disinfecting apparatus, which will probably be done within a few days. In my opinion, all vessels from Chilean ports should be disinfected here to kill rats before being cleared for Panama. It is evident that vessels touching at Callao will require this disinfection. The importance of this measure is emphasized by